

Exercise:

Read the following passage. Write the correct comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives in parentheses in the blank spaces. The first one has been done for you.

Paul likes playing football. He's a very good player, but his friend Sally is a better (good) player. She's the _____ (good) player in the whole school. She is _____ (fast) and _____ (strong) than all the boys, even the boys who are _____ (old) and _____ (big) than her. That's why Paul likes her. Paul thinks all games are exciting, but football is the _____ (exciting) game and it's _____ (noisy) than all the other games he plays with his friends. When the grass is wet, everyone gets dirty when they play football. But Sally gets _____ (dirty) and _____ (wet) than everyone else.

Exercise 1

Read the following passage and underline the adjectives. Write S above adjectives of **size**, C above adjectives of **colour**, Q above adjectives of **quality** and O above adjectives of **origin**.

Sydney is a large Australian city with busy streets and expensive shops. In summer, it's a very hot place. People wear cool clothes and drink cool drinks. There are beautiful sandy beaches where people can rest and look up at the wide blue sky. There are big parks for tourists to visit. Japanese tourists like to sit and watch other people. British tourists take photographs of the strange plants and colorful birds.

Exercise 2

The following passage contains a lot of adjectives. Some of the adjectives appear in the wrong order. First underline the wrongly ordered adjectives. Then write them in their correct order on the lines below the passage.

My friend Jeremy is a handsome tall boy. He always wears a white long T-shirt and a big red cap. He carries a blue huge canvas bag to school. His favorite food is red crunchy apples and he always has one in his bag. Our teacher is an English kind tall man called Mr. Clark. He wears a blue smart suit and glasses with black plastic thick frames.

- Use **more** and **most** to compare most other two-syllable adjectives. You will also use **more** and **most** with all adjectives that have *more* than two syllables.

adjective	comparative	superlative
famous	more famous	most famous
precious	more precious	most precious
handsome	more handsome	most handsome
exciting	more exciting	most exciting
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
expensive	more expensive	most expensive
comfortable	more comfortable	most comfortable
delicious	more delicious	most delicious
interesting	more interesting	most interesting
difficult	more difficult	most difficult

Irregular Comparative and Superlative Forms

A few adjectives don't form their comparative and superlative forms in any of the usual ways. The comparative and superlative forms of these adjectives are different words, called irregular forms.

adjective	comparative	superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
many	more	most
far	farther <i>or</i> further	farthest <i>or</i> furthest

For example:

My painting is good, Melanie's painting is better, but Andrew's painting is the best.

- If the adjective ends in **e**, add **r** to form the comparative and **st** to form the superlative.

adjective	comparative	superlative
nice	nicer	nicest
close	closer	closest
large	larger	largest
rude	ruder	rudest
safe	safer	safest
wide	wider	widest

- Suppose the adjective is a short word that ends in a consonant and has a single vowel in the middle. Just **double the consonant** and add **er** to make the comparative and **est** to make the superlative.

adjective	comparative	superlative
sad	sadder	saddest
wet	wetter	wettest
slim	slimmer	slimmest
thin	thinner	thinnest
big	bigger	biggest

- Suppose the adjective has two syllables and ends in **y**. Just **change the y to i** and add **er** to make the comparative and add **est** to make the superlative.

adjective comparative superlative			adjective comparative superlative		
easy	easier	easiest	heavy	heavier	heaviest
funny	funnier	funniest	lovely	lovelier	loveliest
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest	pretty	prettier	prettiest
noisy	noisier	noisiest	tidy	tidier	tidiest
happy	happier	happiest	friendly	friendlier	friendliest
naughty	naughtier	naughtiest	tiny	tinier	tiniest

- Some adjectives are made from proper nouns of **place**. These adjectives are called **adjectives of origin**.

a Mexican hat	a British police officer
the French flag	a Filipino dress
an American custom	Washington apples
a Japanese lady	a Spanish dance
an Indian temple	an Italian car

The Order of Adjectives

- Sometimes several adjectives are used to describe a single noun or pronoun. When you use two or more adjectives, the usual order is: **size, quality, color, origin, substance**. For example:

a small green plastic box
 size color substance

a stylish red Italian car
 quality color origin

Here are more examples.

a large Indian temple	a tall white stone building
a colorful cotton shirt	a long Chinese silk robe
delicious Spanish food	an old graceful Japanese lady
crunchy Australian apples	a short handsome English man

- Adjectives of quality sometimes **come before** adjectives of size. For example:

beautiful long hair elegant short hair

But adjectives of size **always come before** adjectives of color. For example:

beautiful long black hair elegant short red hair

If you use any adjective of substance, it **comes after** the color adjective. For example:

a beautiful long black silk dress

3 Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns. They give you more information about people, places, and things.

Kinds of Adjectives

Some adjectives tell about the **size of people or things**.

a big house	a long bridge	tiny feet
a large army	a high mountain	big hands
a huge ship	a short man	a short skirt
a tall building	a thin boy	long trousers

Some adjectives tell about the **colour of things**.

a red carpet	a gray suit	a brown bear
a white swan	an orange balloon	green peppers
a blue uniform	a yellow ribbon	black shoes

Some adjectives tell what people or things are like by describing their **quality**.

a beautiful woman	a young soldier	a flat surface
a handsome boy	an old uncle	a hot drink
a poor family	a kind lady	a cold winter
a rich couple	a familiar voice	a sunny day
a strange place	a deep pool	cool weather

Some adjectives tell **what things are made of**. They refer to substances.

a plastic folder	a stone wall	a clay pot
a paper bag	a metal box	a glass door
a cotton shirt	a silk dress	a concrete road
a jade ring	a wooden spoon	a porcelain vase

The Comparison of Adjectives

The Comparative Form

To **compare two people or things**, use the **comparative form** of an adjective. The comparative form is usually made by adding **er** to the adjective.

adjective	comparative form	adjective	comparative form
dark	darker	hard	harder
light	lighter	warm	warmer
high	higher	cold	colder
low	lower	fast	faster
old	older	slow	slower
young	younger		
rich	richer		
poor	poorer		
tall	taller		
small	smaller		
soft	softer		

Notes

The word **than** is often used to compare two things or people. For example, you say:

Mr. Lee is **taller** than Philip.

A car is **faster** than a bike.

The Superlative Form

When you **compare three or more people or things**, use the **superlative form** of an adjective. The superlative form is usually made by adding **est** to the adjective.

People or things, use the **superlative form** is usually made by adding **est** to the adjective.

adjective	superlative form	adjective	superlative form
dark	darkest	warm	warmest
light	lightest	cold	coldest
high	highest	fast	fastest
low	lowest	slow	slowest
old	oldest		
young	youngest		
rich	richest		
poor	poorest		
tall	tallest		
small	smallest		
soft	softest		
hard	hardest		

Notes

The word **the** is often used before the superlative form. For example:

A bee is a **small** insect. A ladybird is **smaller**, but an ant is **the smallest**.

Exercise 3

The following sentences contain adjectives made by adding endings to nouns. Write the noun that each adjective comes from on the line after each sentence. The first one has been done for you. Remember that some nouns must be changed slightly before the ending is added.

1. She's always making careless mistakes. care
2. It was a very painful injury. _____
3. Witches and wizards have magical powers. _____
4. These oranges are very juicy. _____
5. Dogs are usually more energetic than cats. _____
6. Our neighbors are not very friendly. _____
7. She keeps her toys in a large wooden box. _____
8. Take off your muddy shoes before you come in. _____
9. May I borrow your pencil sharpener? Mine is useless. _____
10. What a beautiful dress! _____

Exercise 4

Fill in the blank spaces with adjectives made from the verbs in parentheses. Remember that both present participles and past participles can be used as adjectives. Choose the adjective that suits the sentence best. The first one has been done for you.

1. It wasn't a very interesting (interest) movie.
2. We could hear the _____ (excite) fans screaming.
3. I hope the pupils don't think that my classes are _____ (bore).
4. My dad had a very _____ (worry) look on his face.
5. Have the police found the _____ (steal) car yet?
6. The supermarket sells lots of _____ (freeze) food.
7. The players on the _____ (win) team don't look tired at all.
8. Some of the old houses had _____ (break) windows.

Some adjectives end in **-al**.

a national flag	personal possessions
musical instruments	a traditional costume
electrical goods	magical powers
a coastal town	medical equipment

Here are some adjectives that end in **-ic, -ish, -ible, -able, -ive** and **-ly**.

a fantastic singer	a terrible mess	an imaginative story
an energetic dog	a sensible answer	expensive jewelery
basic grammar	horrible smells	talkative children
enthusiastic shouting	visible footprints	a creative artist
a selfish act	a likeable child	friendly teachers
foolish behavior	comfortable clothes	a lovely dress
stylish clothes	valuable advice	a lively cat
childish talk	suitable colors	an elderly man

Many adjectives end in **-ing**.

loving parents	an interesting book
a caring nurse	a disappointing result
a flashing light	an outstanding swimmer
a smiling face	an exciting ride
a boring story	chattering monkeys
a gleaming car	shocking news

Notes

Words like **smiling**, **caring** and **flashing** are **present participles** of verbs. They are formed by **adding *ing* to the verbs**. Many present participles can also be used as adjectives.

Adjective Endings

Adjectives have many different endings.

- Some adjectives end in **-ful**. These adjectives describe noun or pronouns that are **full of something** or **have a lot of something**.

a beautiful face	a painful injury	a careful student
a cheerful baby	a joyful smile	a helpful teacher
a powerful machine	a wonderful time	playful children
a skillful player	a useful book	colorful clothes

- Some adjectives end in **-ous**.

a famous writer	a courageous soldier
a mountainous area	an adventurous explorer
a dangerous job	a poisonous snake
a humorous film	a generous gift
mischievous children	marvelous results

- Some adjectives end in **-y**.

a messy room	a noisy car	dirty hands
a sleepy dog	a cloudy sky	thirsty children
a muddy path	a sunny day	stormy weather
an easy test	a lazy worker	juicy fruit

- Some adjectives end in **-less**. These adjectives describe a person or thing that **does not have something**.

a cloudless sky	a meaningless word
a sleeveless dress	a fearless fighter
a careless driver	homeless people
a joyless song	seedless grapes
a useless tool	harmless animals

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young	younger	N o t e s The word than is often used to compare two things or people. For example, you say: Mr. Lee is taller than Philip. A car is faster than a bike.	
rich	richer		
poor	poorer		
tall	taller		
small	smaller		
soft	softer		

The Superlative Form

When you **compare three or more people or things**, use the **superlative form** of an adjective. The superlative form is usually made by adding **est** to the adjective.

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rich	richest		
poor	poorest		
tall	tallest		
small	smallest		
soft	softest		
hard	hardest		

Many of adjectives end in **ed**.

a closed door	satisfied customers
Boiled eggs	worried passengers
Wasted time	escaped prisoners
a painted wall	excited students
reduced prices	invited guests

Notes

Words like **closed**, **wasted** and **escaped** are **past participles** of verbs. Many past participles can also be used as adjectives.

Describing What Something Is Made Of

Some nouns can be used like adjectives. For example, if you have a chair that is made of plastic, you can use the noun **plastic** as an adjective and say that the chair is a **plastic chair**. If you have a watch that is made of **gold**, you can say it is a **gold watch**.

But the nouns **wood** and **wool** can't be used like this. To make adjectives of these nouns you have to add **en**.

noun	adjective	example
wood	wooden	a wooden door
wool	woolen	a woolen jumper

Describing What Something Is Like

There's another way to make adjectives from nouns. Suppose you want to say that something is **like** a certain material, although not made of it. To make these adjectives, add **-en** to some nouns and **-y** to other nouns.

noun	adjective	example
gold	golden	a golden sunrise (= <i>bright yellow like gold</i>)
silk	silky or silken	silky skin (= <i>as soft as silk</i>)
lead	leaden	a leaden sky (= <i>dark gray like the color of lead</i>)